

Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to make this representation to you. Simply put, I believe that cuts in Mental Health provision to be mistaken, not just in human terms, but also for straight economic reasons. If anything, the demands in the community due to mental health issues are greater than ever before and the cuts would be even more deleterious than before. I urge you to reconsider the \$1 million or greater in recissions and cuts to a DMHAS facility, the Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC), outlined in the Governor's budget.

Others more qualified than I can outline the direct impact of the cuts in terms of fewer health care professionals and treatment possibilities for patients and their families already subject to considerable stress. This is not hypertension which is managed at an individual level, mental illness has a ripple effect and active therapy can also bring relief to the families and the surrounding community.

We also need to look at the wider research environment where CMHC research itself attracted other research money in the form of grants and pharma sponsorship. In addition this can attract and retain talent which will identify tomorrows new therapies. Yale University enjoys a global reputation but it must also exist in a local ecosystem that is supportive of its research efforts.

There may be short term accounting benefits to these cuts and I sympathize with those who have to balance the books. I would urge that the cuts be made elsewhere as not do to so will have far reaching impact on Mental Health in the area.

Sincerely

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